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MARRIAGES.

On the 19th November, at Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., Frederick Alexander, son of William Alexander, of Florida, London, to Alice Marie, youngest daughter of the late R. A. Jamieson, M.D., of Shanghai.
At the Union Church, Yokohama, by the Rev. E. S. Booth, D.D., and before the U.S. Consul-General, Dr. Frederick Alexander Robinson, of Shanghai, to Mary Emma, youngest daughter of George and Elizabeth Settle, of Philadelphia, U.S. of America.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VUEX ROAD C.I.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

HONGKONG, 26th November, 1902.

According to the telegram from our London correspondent, dated Sunday morning, the 23rd instant, it is rumoured that Sir Ernest Sartow has been summoned home to England for the purpose of attending "a conference which is likely to have important results." The statement is sufficiently vague to mean almost anything. It has been known for some time that Sir Ernest Sartow was going home on leave as soon as could conveniently be arranged, but to these "diplomatic circles," at least, no significance was attached to his visit and. It was thought that, but for the connection with China's affairs, the Cheongchow massacre, the would by this time have been away home for a holiday. and to by our correspondents is something more than an exceptionally long absence from Peking. What is only possible to

again by Germany and France a few weeks ago, will at least be accorded some attention. We have already expressed our opinion, which is shared by the whole of the Anglo-Chinese Press, we think, that the attempt to raise the Yangtze question now is not only unnecessary, since the integrity of the Yangtze Valley has already been guaranteed, but is also animated by an unfriendly spirit toward Great Britain. We have suggested that there is revealed one more instance of the Chinese love of playing off one Power against another, for we are loth to think that Germany deliberately set about to undermine the position of Great Britain, her avowed ally. It is difficult to see what "conditions" for the evacuation of Shanghai are left for the subsequent settlement of which Reuters speaks.

If, as is stated, Sir Ernest Sartow is to attend a conference in London, it is to be trusted that the British Government will take the opportunity of being enlightened on various points in connection with its policy in China. In His Majesty's present Minister at Peking they will find one who has represented his country with more credit than any of his recent predecessors, the only one of late years, in fact, who appears to have grasped the situation. He went to Peking after a considerable period of declining prestige for Great Britain in China. During his brief term of office so far he has struggled manfully, and not without some success, to restore his country's name. He seems to have recognised that Britain's status in China was and is in grave peril of being lost. That Sir Ernest Sartow will impress this on the minds of the responsible Ministers at home, if the chance be given him, we have some reason for trusting. The question of British influence in China may be divided into three parts, corresponding to three sections of China. There is the North, where by the natural course of events, aided by the entire absence of any intelligible or consistent British policy for many years past, Britain plays a very small part, and Russia is the absolutely predominant nation. There is the Central or Yangtze region, where Britain has always held the hegemony, and only recently has a claimant been found to dispute the "sphere of influence," which was so much talked about in the days of China's loss of Port Arthur and Kiaochow. Lastly, there is the South (which means here Canton and the West River) where the position of Hongkong gives such natural advantages that the leading place among the foreign nations concerned in this region can only be lost by a long course of apathy. It is full time that the British Government should consider intelligently, as it has never done before, its policy with regard to the Chinese Empire. What is now wanted is consolidation of our position and a determination to resist aggressions, open or covert. Did other Powers make the spirit of their policy agree with the letter of their assurances, we might continue without much loss in the old careless and irrational way. But several other Powers are very wide awake to the opportunities offered to them by British supineness, and even the best framed conventions are susceptible of various interpretations. Therefore an understanding at home on the China question, or collection of questions, as it would be more correct to say, is earnestly to be hoped for.

The English mail of the 25th ult. was delivered in London on the 22nd inst.

The meeting of the Legislative Council fixed for to-day is postponed till to-morrow, at the same hour.

We are requested to draw attention to a notice in another column about the Ladies' Recreation Club subscription ball, which takes place on the 9th prox. Tickets are transferable.

By a matched fire at Suklappa, where operations are proceeding in connection with the new reservoir, damage to the extent of \$800 was done. The materials were the property of Tsang King, the contractor.

The China Merchants' s.s. *Hsin Fang* arrived in the Harbour yesterday afternoon, having on board the body of the late Viceroy Tao Ma, which is being conveyed to the deceased's native place in Chekiang for burial. The eldest son accompanies his father's remains to their last resting-place.

There will be a practice of the Rugby section of the H.K.F.C. this afternoon at Happy Valley, at 4.45, and it is hoped that there will be so large a turn out of members as possible, any new comers to the Colony will play and also any players who have not participated in any of the games will also be welcomed.

On Saturday Mr. Geo. P. Lammett will sell by auction in his sales rooms in Duddell Street a collection of pictures, comprising steel engravings (including artists' proofs), coloured imperials and platings, the property of a well-known local gentleman who has unavailingly left for home. The collection, which is a very fine one, is on view at Mr. Lammett's rooms on Friday, and should be viewed by all lovers of art.

The Yokohama A.D.C. played Joseph Derrick's farcical comedy *Confusion* with great success on the 12th.

The net loss in the recent fire at Messrs. Siber and Wolff's, Yokohama, is estimated at 1,250,000 yen.

An inquest was held at Tientsin on the 19th inst. on the body of Mr. Baxter, who was killed in the colliery fire at Tongshan on the previous Monday.

The French school at Peking is to be reopened soon. Several professors have been already engaged. This school is under the direction of Chiress.

The *Universal Gazette* hears that Wu Ting-fang, the retiring Chinese Minister at Washington, has been instructed from Peking to visit Japan on the way home, with the view of reporting on diplomatic relations, school affairs and other matters that have been the subject of consideration at the two capitals recently.

Captain Moll of the Colonial Infantry has been appointed Commissioner for France, says *L'Echo de Chine*, to proceed with the British delegates to attend to the delimitation of the Franco-British frontier from north of the Sokoto to Lake Tchad. He will be aided in his mission by Lieutenant Tille, also of the Colonial Infantry, and by an administrator of the colonies not yet designated.

An unknown steamer ran down a trading junk, according to the statement of the owner of the Chinese boat, outside the harbour at eight o'clock on Monday night, cutting her in two. The junk's crew were rescued by two fishing boats, but one man, a native passenger, is now reported to be missing. The steamer, whose name is unknown, was making for the harbour, as also was the unfortunate junk, which was struck amidships.

The *P. and T. Times* of the 13th inst. says that the occurrence of a financial crash among the Chinese merchants at Tientsin is only a question of time. Prince Su has extracted two million taels from the Wai Wu Fu for the continuation of public works in Peking. The Peking Syndicate is getting on splendidly in Homan, and will have its locomotives running in another month. There has been another breach in the Yellow River near the mouth.

Advices from German "Mukim" in Kuala Selangor district report the discovery of a treasure trove there a short time ago. A gang of coolies were engaged in cutting a drain when they came upon a box, imbedded in the earth, which on being opened contained a quantity of coins with inscriptions which proved on examination to be Dutch and Javanese characters. The year 1787 is clearly discernible on the coins which corresponds with the period of the Dutch invasion of the Malay Peninsula.

A vigorous attack has been made on Sheng Kung-pao by two well-known Censors. The denunciation consists of twelve counts, charging him with avarice, extravagance, and nepotism. A report circulated in mandarin circles in Shanghai, according to the *N. C. Daily News*, states that the Throne has ordered Viceroy Chang Chih-tung to investigate the charges, and that he has appointed a couple of his subordinate officers to journey to Shanghai and make secret enquiries thereabout.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* telegraphed on the 19th inst.—"It is feared that the hoisting of the dragon flag at the mines on the pretext that it was the birthday of the Dowager Empress precludes some action on the part of the Chinese prejudicial to the company generally. The situation remains complicated, and the most conflicting statements are being made. Mr. Yang, a former director, publishes some extraordinary statements, but nothing definite is anticipated until the meeting which is to be held on the 25th inst." The notice of meeting referred to in the above telegram will be found in another column.

Messrs. Behn Meyer & Co.'s s.s. *Kelantan* was sunk in a collision with the steamer *Phra Chom Klao* on the Bangkok bar early on the morning of the 18th inst. The *Kelantan* is a steamer of 6.8 tons, under the German flag, and commanded by Captain Lettmann. She left Singapore for Bangkok on the evening of the 9th inst. in ballast. Messrs. Behn Meyer & Co.'s agents in Bangkok inform them that it will take about two months to raise and repair the injured vessel. The *Phra Chom Klao*, which collided with the *Kelantan*, was bound down the river to Hongkong. She is also one of Messrs. Behn Meyer's steamers. Her captain's name is Bruhn and she is considerably larger than the *Kelantan*, having a displacement of 1,012 tons.

Sir Julius Danvers, K.C.S.I., who died on the 18th ult., at the age of seventy-six, was son of the late Mr. Frederick Danvers, Danvers, formerly secretary and registrar of the Duchy of Lancaster. He was educated at private schools and at King's College, London, and entered the service of the old East India House, in Leadenhall Street, in 1842. He acted as private secretary to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the East India Company from 1848 till 1853, including Sir James Hogg and Sir Archibald Galloway. He was afterwards again appointed Government Director of Indian Railways, and visited India in his official capacity in 1875-6. In August, 1880, he was appointed secretary in the Public Works Department at the India Office, though still continuing to be director of Indian railway companies. He was created a K.C.S.I. in 1886, and retired from the service in 1892. He was the author of the valuable annual official reports on railways in India presented to Parliament from 1890 till 1892.

Mr. P. H. Kent, barrister, has been appointed legal adviser to the British Municipal Council, Tientsin.

Silver has been leaving Tientsin in considerable quantities for the South, according to the *China Times*.

The Chinese authorities at Amoy have subscribed \$800 towards a tablet to Capt. Fife, who was killed in the recent great fire.

An American paper states that "Hobson is going back to work, and the rescue reason may now be considered officially closed."

A boxing match has been arranged at Manila between Louis Meyers and Billy Beller at 148 lbs., to take place about the 6th of next month.

There is no foundation whatever for the reports in the *Universal Gazette* that Mr. Kinder is about to retire from the Imperial Railways, the *P. & T. Times* says.

The new Japanese cruiser *Nitaka* 3,420 tons, 21 guns, 20 knots speed, was launched by the Empress at Yokosuka on the 15th inst. Her keel was only laid in January last.

Preparations were being made at the beginning of the month for the Perso-Bahuch boundary delimitation commission. It is believed at Quetta it will last for six months at least.

An attempt was made on the 5th inst. by a Korean named Kim, at Hojo in Japan, to assassinate one of the Korean exiles, Li Chung-yang. The would-be assassin was handed over to the police.

At the inquest held last Friday at the German Consulate, Shanghai, on the body of Marie Ruggier, who hanged herself on board the N.D.L. steamer *Gera* between Yokohama and Shanghai, a verdict of "suicide while of unsound mind" was returned.

H.E. Liang Ching, K.C.M.G., according to a Peking telegram, has left that city for Shanghai en route for a visit to his home in Kwangtung before proceeding to the United States. As at present understood, he is not expected to leave for San Francisco much before the end of January next.

It has been discovered by the U.S. Attorney-General that there is no provision in the Philippines Bill or any other law which authorised the extradition of any criminal from the Philippine Islands to the United States. This defect of the law, the other way, it being impossible to extradite a criminal from the United States to the Philippines. The Secretary of War recommends that Congress be asked to legislate upon this matter at its coming session.

The *Oseka Mainichi* reports that the alleged plot to damage the Imperial train at Otake station is now reported to have been without foundation. A letter regarding the alleged plot was received, but it was the work of some party who sought to cause trouble to the Chief of the Police Station at Otake, who, it appears, is very unpopular. The discovery of explosives on the track is denied. Although a great sensation was caused at the time the matter will be settled without any serious trouble to the local authorities after all.

Le Courrier Saigonais recently devoted the whole of its front page to the text of the address presented to the French Parliament by the French Consul at Bangkok concerning the Franco-Siam Treaty. The address analysed the territorial concessions and commercial advantages supposed to be gained under the Treaty. In the introduction the *Courrier* says:—"The French saw that much desired day at length arrive when they would cease to be pariahs to whom all doors are closed and whom a boycott to the death prevents from obtaining employment, commands, or work. The text of Treaty transmitted by Havas agency has changed all that. The foreigners who are friendly to France—and they are many—sincerely pity a great country like ours allowing itself once more to be foolishly misled by the crafty promises of Asiatics. Others whose narrow minds are not susceptible to any sentiment of equity and justice, are openly rejoiced at this fresh check sustained by our diplomacy. The introduction goes on to say that the signatories recognise that the course of protesting against a treaty after it has been signed is unusual, but point out the time elapsing before news in Paris can reach Indo-China and pray Parliament to grant a suspension." Readers will be tempted to remark, with a well-known public entertainer, "Isn't it marvellous?"

S. GEORGE'S BALL.

At a meeting held last evening in the City Hall in connection with the proposed S. George's Ball—Sir William M. Goodman presiding—it was decided to hold a ball on 3rd January, 1903, and a sub-committee was appointed and other arrangements were made.

MUSIC ON THE PARADE GROUND.

The following programme of music will be played by the band of the 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters on the New Parade Ground, to-day, between the hours of 3 and 5 p.m.:—
March, "The Rifle Regiment," Sousa.
Overture, "The Stars and Stripes," Sousa.
Valse, "Oriana," Koster.
Selection, "The Belle of New York," Koster.
Peccolo Solo, "Le Kaitetlet," Danzaro.
Selection, "The Goisha," Jones.
Intermezzo, "On the Road to Moscow," Lotz.
"God Save the King."

LATEST STEAMER MOVEMENT.

The N.Y.K. steamer *Wakasa Maru* (European Line) left Shanghai for this port on the 24th inst., and is expected here to-day.

TELEGRAMS.

"DAILY PRESS" SERVICE.
GENERAL NEWS.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, 24th November, 3.10 p.m.

HERR KRUPP'S WILL.

The late Herr Krupp left by his will the Essen works to his widow, with the proviso that the works shall not be sold or transferred to a company within 25 years' time. The daughter inherits on the widow's death.

REUTER'S SERVICE.

LONDON, 23rd November.

THE SUGAR CONVENTION.

In the House of Commons on Monday, the Government will introduce a resolution approving of the Sugar Convention. The opposition will move a direct negative.

THE SUEZ CANAL DIRECTORATE.

The *Financial News* mentions a report that the British Government are about to propose the replacing of Sir John Stokes, K.C.B., and Mr. Henry Austin Lee, O.B., on the board of the Suez Canal Company, and that they will also appoint a third representative on the board, probably Sir James Mackay.

LONDON, 23rd November.

EARTHQUAKE IN JAMAICA.

A severe earthquake occurred in Jamaica yesterday.

OBITUARY.

Herr Krupp, the celebrated ordnance manufacturer of Essen, Germany, is dead. The sad event has caused a great sensation in Europe.

LONDON, 23rd November.

THE SOMALILAND OPERATIONS.

Colonel Manning, of Colonel Cobbe's column, has reached Gararo, fifty miles north-east of Bohtle, whether he was to proceed the same day with reliefs and provisions for the garrison.

FIERCE FIRE AT SHANGHAI.

One of the worst fires that has visited the foreign quarter in Shanghai for a long time occurred on the afternoon of the 20th inst. when the building occupied by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, located between the Bund and Szechuan Road and Canton and Foochow Roads, was wholly destroyed. Fire was discovered at about two o'clock, says the *Shanghai Times*, when an outburst of smoke closely followed by flame showed that a conflagration had started in the rooms occupied by servants in the upper part of the north-west wing of the building. An alarm brought the fire brigade quickly to the scene. The second in command of the Italian cruiser *Marco Polo* was on shore, attending the French parade in grand-tenue, and he signalled to his ship for assistance. The Italian sailors did splendid work together with a detachment from H.M.S. *Pique* under their officers. Both of these volunteer forces devoted themselves to protecting neighbouring property. The Italian Bank was very much exposed, the breeze carrying sparks and intense heat towards it; but some sailors managed to get a hose on the roof and thus saved this building, where the window-frames were already burning. The deluge fire engines got the first powerful stream on the steamship building, other steam engines following quickly. Soon the roof fell in and set fire to the second floor, which again kindled the first. Indeed, the entire building was quickly consumed, in spite of the excellent work done by the fire brigade and the sailors. Although the fire burned awfully it did not complete its destructive work for more than two hours, and until night the engines were engaged in drowning it out, throngs of people, foreign and native, looking on for hours from outside the police lines. The Italian Consul Signor Ghisi, there open his house and served refreshments, and facial play harmonies completely with the rôle he assumes, one of the best in the entire piece. The dialogue between Carbury and Mrs. Crockett (Miss Mildred York) in the second act is extremely amusing, and provides one of the tit-bits of the evening. Miss York would like to have seen more of. Her conception of the part she fills is a happy one, for while the vulgarities of the mysterious lady of Ostend are reproduced pleasantly and unobtrusively, they lose nothing in their pungency. The other characters in the comedy were again admirably portrayed by their respective exponents.

At many people are anxious to know what other plays will be produced by the Janet Waldorf Company during the remainder of their season, we have obtained from Mr. Arthur Seymour, the Company's representative, the list of productions to follow. *The Lady of Ostend* will be presented only one more night. On Thursday and Friday evenings the Theatre will be otherwise engaged. On Saturday, the Company will reopen with the celebrated realistic drama *Magda*, with Miss Janet Waldorf in the title rôle. This will be succeeded in order by Shakspere's laughable comedy, *Twelfth Night*. Drama's emotional drama *Camille*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *Wring Mr. W. phd. Remo and Juliet*, *Facing the Music*, and *Sweet Nell of Old Drury*. This splendid repertoire should warrant a record season.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Board will be held to-morrow, at 4.15 p.m.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

1. Correspondence relative to Manila being declared free from cholera.
G. A. Woodcock, Secretary.

AGENDA.

1. Application for permission to erect two urinals at new building on Marine Lot No. 101.
2. Application for permission to erect two lavatory basins and one trough closet at the annex to the Hongkong Club.
3. Mortality statistics for the weeks ended 8th and 15th November, 1902.
4. Lime-washing returns for the fortnight ended November 22nd, 1902.
5. Rat return for the fortnight ended November 24th, 1902.

AN EPISODE OF TONKIN.

The coming departure of Cav. Volpelli, the Italian Consul-General for the Oriental Congress at Hanoi, Tonkin, recalls what-for recently events have followed quickly in the Far East—seems an incident of ancient history; because his travels in that country were connected with an interesting episode of the Franco-Chinese question.

After the hostilities between the two countries had been momentarily suspended, thanks to the brilliant coup of Commander (now Admiral) Fournier who rushed through a treaty of peace at Tientsin, the sad misunderstanding at Langson provoked fresh military operations. The war, or "state of reprisals" as it was called by diplomatists, dragged on for many months with great mutual loss on each side, until it was definitely stopped by the armistice concluded at Paris by Mr. Campbell on behalf of the Chinese Government. At the time, the armistice was received with great suspicion by the French military authorities, and with doubt of its ultimate success by all, for the memory of the failure of Commander Fournier's Treaty was fresh in every memory.

The Chinese, who were sincerely desirous of peace, also feared that some accident might again frustrate their hopes, and were anxious that their military authorities at the seat of war should promptly receive clear and certain instructions to commence evacuation at the dates assigned by the armistice. For this purpose an Imperial Commission composed of Messrs. Volpelli, Woodring, and four civil and military Mandarins was sent by the Viceroy of Canton Chang Chih-tung (now Acting Viceroy at Nanking) to the camps of the Chinese troops in Tonkin to communicate the Imperial Edict of immediate withdrawal.

This mission was carried out fully and promptly. Mr. Volpelli was away from Canton only a month, much of which was wasted in inevitable delays for steamers that then did not run so frequently to Haiphong, and in slow travelling by gunboat up the swift rivers. Still in that short time, amidst difficulties and danger, the Chinese camps were reached, the evacuation was ordered (it commenced at Hong Kuo two days before the date assigned), and there was a balance of a few days for the fates which awaited the Commission at its return to Hanoi, where it was cordially received by the hitherto suspicious General Briere de l'Isle.

The work of the Commission was very arduous, but it was rewarded by the results achieved; it found a country suffering from the calamities of war and left it showing the first promises of returning prosperity. Mr. Volpelli, who may be considered the "only survivor of the Commission, for most if not all of the Mandarins are dead and Mr. Woodring left for America many years ago, will have now the additional pleasure of revisiting the country after 17 years' work of transformation, and of contemplating in the Hanoi exhibition the full bloom of that prosperity which was just budding in the days immediately following the evacuation of the Chinese troops.

"THE LADY OF OSTEND."

The Janet Waldorf Company repeated their excellent comedy at the Theatre Royal last night, before another of the consistently good houses that have patronised their season here. Seen for the first time in Hongkong—the echoes of its great success in London have yet barely died away—*The Lady of Ostend* has been received with a degree of genuine favour seldom accorded by theatre-goers here. Mr. Norral McGregor's impersonation of the Baron de Longueville is a revelation of the adaptability of the actor, for it is an arduous task to hold the stage as the central figure in an historical drama like *A Royal Divorce*; and then to discard the rôle for one providing such a violent transition as does that of the Baron in *The Lady of Ostend*. This Mr. McGregor did, with the best results. "Buy and natural" is the unanimous verdict, too, on the acting of Miss Janet Waldorf as Mrs. Whittier, whose domestic trials she illustrates to perfection, although, unfortunately, the part does not provide much scope for the exercise of Miss Waldorf's abilities. Mr. William Fitchett has a lot of hard work to get through with in the character of Dick Whittier, but he acquiesces in his position, whose sympathies were with him, and his handling he received at the hands of *My Own People*, the "grippe" (Mr. Jean de Lacey). The delineation of Joseph Carbury by Mr. Wilson Forbes is singularly one in every aspect, and his tone, gestures, and facial play harmonies completely with the rôle he assumes, one of the best in the entire piece. The dialogue between Carbury and Mrs. Crockett (Miss Mildred York) in the second act is extremely amusing, and provides one of the tit-bits of the evening. Miss York would like to have seen more of. Her conception of the part she fills is a happy one, for while the vulgarities of the mysterious lady of Ostend are reproduced pleasantly and unobtrusively, they lose nothing in their pungency. The other characters in the comedy were again admirably portrayed by their respective exponents.

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YU HSIEH'S LAST WORDS.

We are indebted to the N.C. Daily News for the following: "Last Declaration" of the notorious Governor of Shansi, Yu Hsien, who was executed on 22nd February, 1901, at Lanchow, Kansu.

Notification by Governor Yu: a communication to the benevolent and gentry of (this) honorable city.

I have heard that the superior man loves others because of their virtue, and aids in carrying out their good deeds. I have offended against the Court, and doubtless it is fitting that I should obey the law, but I have nothing to regret and nothing to fear.

I have just heard that some people in various parts of this city have issued notices summoning the masses to assemble and to ask for my life. This must not be on any account.

I have been Governor in Shantung and Shansi, and during my term of office have managed Chinese cases. That I have not been able to protect the foreigners from the lawless was a fault in my administration.

Formerly the Court blamed me for using force. This truly was in order to keep things intact; but the demands and oppressions of the foreigners were endless, and so they had to be killed, and I was quite willing to do it. Hence I am now under the ban of the law, not by the original intention of the Court—there is absolutely no way of screening myself in this difficulty. I sympathize with (the Court), but an adult can make no reply; hence I die with no resentment. Besides, there is the saying of King Tsao:

"The Prince of heaven is intelligent and holy. If his servants offend they should be put to death."

You scholars probably know the passage. And the common saying runs: "If the Kaiser commands the Minister to die, would he dare not to die?"

You who listen to stirring story-tellers, and you who frequent theatres, are also aware of these things.

Now, if you will, in an irregular way, plead for my life, not only will it be useless, but the Court will add this to my offence, that I have sought to win the favour of the populace, and have not met death in the customary manner. Think of it, gentlemen—is this to love me, or to injure me?

Moreover, when you unlawfully gather large numbers together, they are of all classes; and you guarantee that the King will not be equal to them. Will your hearts be at rest, or not?

These are my insignificant and sincere sentiments. I humbly beg you to excuse them.

Respectful notification by Yu Hsien.

P.S.—I, an unoffending minister, am unworthily favoured with the love of the benevolent and gentry of this honourable capital city, because I am about to die. Those who came to see me, I received in succession; but during these few days my strength has been equal to it, and as I am making my dispositions for after death, I have no leisure to see any one else. If I have your commiseration, wait till after I have met my fate, and then give me a cup of the best wine, and a string of paper (in sacrifice). My spirit will be cognisant (of your deed) and will receive your gifts with respect and gladness. A pair of funeral scrolls written by Governor Yu with his own hand.

The Minister dies for his country, and should be put to death.

He desires to die as he has lived—in integrity. Not like those who finally sink into the hell of the unjustly accused.

I have advised the ruler's grace—Who can assuage his sorrow? Kindly turn your attention, gentlemen, to help him.

And without delay minister comfort to the Emperor and Empress Dowager.

The Minister dies for his country. Who can assuage his sorrow? Kindly turn your attention, gentlemen, to help him.

It is hard for both old and young. It is impossible to avoid causing grief to the ruler's family.

I have slain others, the Court slays me. What cause is there for resentment? I am ashamed that I have served the Emperor twenty years.

Have held office in three provinces. And have given nothing in return. Vain regret! Have been ungrateful for the Emperor's kindness.

POLICE COURT.

Tuesday, 25th November.

BEFORE MR. F. A. HAZELAND, (POLICE MAGISTRATE) AND MR. J. M. KEMP, (ACTING POLICE MAGISTRATE).

LEUNG CHIN, complainant to Messrs. Silva & Co. merchants and commission agents, 16, Des Voeux Road, was fined \$100 for storing 240 charges of dynamite and 40 coils of fuse on the premises at the address mentioned. Mr. M. W. Slade defended.

BEFORE MR. J. H. KEMP, (ACTING POLICE MAGISTRATE).

REGULATIONS CONTINUED.

Indian P.O. 840 was charged on remand with stealing fowls from Chinese residents in Yau-mat. He pleaded not guilty, and was defended by Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister.

Chargeant McSwayed, who was the complainant, had had complaints lodged with him, by the owners, of mysterious disappearances of fowls and his investigation of affairs culminated in the arrest of the defendant.

The charge was found proved, and sentence was passed of three months' hard labour.

REFUSING LEGAL AID.

Kwok J., a sampan man, was fined \$5 for refusing to accept a passenger in the person of Charles Ridgeway, bookeller, without having reasonable excuse to justify his action.

HONGKONG NURSING ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The second annual meeting of the Hongkong Nursing Association was held yesterday in the City Hall. Dr. F. O. Stedman, president, presided and there were also present:—Lady Blake, Sir William Meigh Goodman, Lady Goodman (hon. secretary), Dr. R. M. Gibson, Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. Tomes, Mrs. Harding, Mrs. May, Mrs. Siebs, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Stedman, Mrs. Grist, Mrs. Stephens, Mrs. Gompertz, Mrs. Danby, and Mrs. Whitlow.

The President said:—Ladies and gentlemen, The report of the Committee and the statement of accounts from the treasurer are before you, and as I have very little to add to what is stated in the report, I do not propose to detain you with a long speech. I may say that the Institution is filling a great want in the Colony and from a doctor's point of view at least I do not know how we should be able to get on without it, and I think that the same may be said from the patients' point of view also. At present, the fees that are being charged for the services of the nurses are comparatively low—much lower, I believe, than those which are charged in Shanghai; but the Committee have thought it wise to keep the fees as low as is consistent with making the Institution pay its way, so as to bring the services of the nurses within the means of as many persons as possible. It appears at our present rates that the Institution is just able to meet its current expenses, but as we are paying our nurses a sterling salary, I am afraid that with the present low dollar we may find that we shall have to somewhat raise the fees in the near future. The fact that we have been able to carry on the Institution and make it pay its way is, to me, eminently satisfactory; but you must remember that although we have thus earned enough to pay our working expenses, at present we are not able to put anything to pay for our passage money. Both our present nurses are on a three years' agreement at the end of which time we have to pay half their passages home (if they stay five years we pay their full passage home), so that in rather less than two years from now we shall have to find enough money to pay two half-passages home and two full passages out for two new nurses, and we think that we ought to be in a position to do this without seriously draining on the guarantee fund, and for that purpose it will be necessary to institute an annual subscription. We think that an annual subscription of \$10 will be sufficient to keep the Institution afloat, if we can get 60 or 70 subscribers to support the Institution, and this would, I think, be easily possible. Failing this it seems that the Institution must after a few years become bankrupt, as our small guarantee fund would soon be exhausted in paying passages. As I stated in the report, at present the Committee think that two nurses are sufficient for the needs of the Colony. Our nurses have had a good many days off duty during the year, and the secretary has only on two occasions been unable to supply a nurse when one was asked for; so that we think that at present a third nurse would not be able to earn enough to cover her salary and the expenses of her board and lodging. I should like to thank the present Committee for the support they have given me during the past year, and especially Lady Goodman for the care and trouble she has given to the secretaryship, and also Dr. Fraser, who has kindly acted as honorary treasurer.

Sir WILLIAM MEIGH GOODMAN moved the adoption of the report, which was as follows:—"The Committee have pleasure in presenting the second annual report and statement of accounts from the 1st of October, 1901, to the 30th September, 1902, to subscribers. During the whole of this time the Institution has had the benefit of the services of Nurse Gray and Nurse Hair, who have been actually engaged in nursing for 257 and 290 days respectively. This clearly shows the need of a Nursing Institution in the Colony, and that the services of trained nurses are both required and appreciated. At present it would appear that two nurses are sufficient to meet the needs of the community, as upon two occasions only was the Institution unable to send a nurse in response to request to do so. During the period under review, for the guidance of the nurses and their patients have been drawn up. It will be seen from the statement of accounts that the Committee has been able to repay the sum of \$180.34, out of the \$237.77, which it was necessary to borrow from the guarantee fund to meet the expenditure of last year, and that the receipts have been sufficient to meet the working expenses of the present year. The Committee, however, big to call attention to the fact that the nurses are now on a three years' agreement only, and that at the end of that time the cost of two half passages home, and two passages out, will have to meet; this is estimated to be about \$1,800 representing \$600 a year, which must be raised by subscription. In accordance with rule 7 it rests with the annual meeting to fix the amount of the subscription for the coming year, 1902-3, and the Committee venture to suggest that the subscription will be sufficient to carry on its work without diminishing the guarantee fund, which it is most desirable to preserve intact, in order to meet such contingencies as may from time to time arise. The Committee recommend that the subscription for the coming year to be fixed at \$10. The sum to the credit of the guarantee fund at the 30th September, 1902, was \$2,702.29 on 1st October, 1902, which \$2,000 was interest at 5 per cent, \$1,600 on fixed deposit, and the balance \$270.29 was to the credit of the Institution in current account with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. The Honorary Secretary, Mrs. Dickson, having resigned in February on leaving for England, Lady Goodman kindly undertook the duties of that post. Mrs. Siebs, Mrs. Blotie, and Mrs. Slade also resigned their places on the Committee, which have been filled by Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. Tomes, and Mrs. Turner. The members of the Committee in accordance with the rules, beg to tender their resignation, and being eligible offer themselves for re-election." The Institution, remarked Sir WILLIAM, was a most admirable one, as a great many persons in the Colony could testify by their experience. During the past year the care and excellent nursing they had received were very different to what it would have been had they been left to the tender mercies of ignorant or careless Chinese. It was an excellent Institution and should commend itself to the people of the Colony.

Mrs. May seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The President said they had now to consider the amount of the subscription for the coming year. The Committee had recommended that it should be \$10, which they believed would enable the Institution to pay its way.

Sir WILLIAM MEIGH GOODMAN moved a resolution that the subscription be \$10. There

was no doubt, he said, looking at the report, that the step was necessary. The passages of the nurses between England and Hongkong were a very heavy item, and they must be met. He trusted there would be sufficient support and that it would not be necessary to increase the subscription beyond \$10.

Mrs. Slade seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The officers and Committee were re-elected, with the exception of Mrs. Harding, who retired, her place on the Committee being taken by Mrs. Siebs.

The meeting then separated.

THE HONGKONG STEAM WATER-BOAT CO., LD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The second annual meeting of the above Company was held yesterday in the office of the Company, 20, Des Voeux Road. Mr. Liao Tze San, chairman, presided, and there were also present Messrs. E. S. Joseph, J. W. Kow (manager), Captain Clark, Mr. Chau Siu Ki, and E. S. Joseph.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been in your hands for some time I will take them as read, but before proceeding any further I should like to be allowed to explain the regrettable incident referred to in the report, namely the embezzlement of the sum of \$1,755.28 of the Company's funds by an employee. Besides performing the duties of a clerk the man was also charged with the collection of bills; not being a clerk in the proper sense of that term, and being a Portuguese he was not of course trusted; when your manager discovered the embezzlement he promptly had a warrant issued for the man's arrest, but it was too late, as he had already disappeared. Your Committee deeply regret the occurrence, but under the circumstances it was unavoidable. For the future we have fully guarded against a similar occurrence by having the present collector secured, so you need feel no anxiety on that score. Coming to the report before us it is highly gratifying to the Committee, and I feel sure, it must be so to the shareholders as well, that the results for the past year are so excellent. Against the earnings of \$8,844.38 which we put before you 12 months ago, the earnings for the past year are \$9,784.38. You will be pleased to hear, gentlemen, that this splendid result is not to be looked upon as merely temporary owing to the necessity of water a few months ago, but is a substantial and permanent increase of the business of the Company. I need hardly say that we owe this improved position of our Company to the excellent management and the energy of our manager. (Hear, hear.) There is one other matter mentioned in the report, and that is that we intend to call up the remaining \$3 per share still unpaid. This is rendered imperative by the increasing volume of our business, necessitating a further addition to our boats. The call will therefore I am sure be fully endorsed by you, as it is a proof of a flourishing position. With these few remarks, I will move the adoption of the report and accounts, but before putting it to the meeting I will be pleased to answer any questions shareholders may wish to ask.

Captain CLARK—Do you intend, Mr. Chairman, to draw out the \$3 at once or by instalments?

Mr. KOW—Of course it is only a small matter. The boat will be well under way by that time.

There being no other questions, The CHAIRMAN formally moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. JOSEPH seconded, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

Captain CLARK proposed the re-election of Messrs. Liao Tze San and Chau Siu Ki to the Consulting Committee for the current year.

Mr. JOSEPH seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. J. W. KOW moved the re-appointment of Mr. W. Hutton Potts as auditor.

Mr. CHAN SIU KI seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Thank you for your kind attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow.

The notice calling the meeting having been read.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, with your approval I will consider the report and statement of accounts which have been in your hands for a fortnight as read. The year shows an increase of \$7,934.15 in profits, but losses have reduced the balance to almost the same amount as shown in the previous report. There remains the sum of \$539,669.09, which the directors recommend be apportioned as follows:—16 per cent. (\$4 per share) as a dividend to shareholders, a bonus of 15 per cent. to contributors of business, the same as last year, leaving a balance of \$318,669.09, \$109,000 of which has been placed to "Underwriting Suspense Account" as the beginning of an account which the directors consider it advisable to open for the payment of losses of years previous to the current one and carry forward the balance of \$218,669.09 to new account. The directors draw attention to the new account of "Reinsurance Fund" which is the nucleus of a fund it is intended to build up, and is composed of premia on risks in excess of the Company's normal lines. The advantage and advisability of such an account as this is unquestioned. Messrs. Palmer & Fitch have examined the various properties mortgaged to the Company, and report that the advance in every instance is amply secured. It will be seen that the sterling exchange continues to be computed at 2s. per dollar. There is nothing further of interest to add, but before submitting the report and accounts for confirmation I shall be happy to give any further information that may be required.

There were no questions, and the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

In seconding Mr. E. S. JOSEPH said:—Mr. Chairman, I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts. I am pleased to hear of the establishment of a re-insurance fund, which I regard as a step in the right direction, calculated to strengthen the company. I only hope that we shall also soon be in a position to again make additions to the reserve fund. We have been pursued by bad luck pretty consistently for several years, and it is time that we entered upon a spell of

good fortune. I hope we shall have good luck during the present year, so as to be able at our next meeting to make in addition to the reserve fund, and gradually build it up to its former level of one million dollars. It is most necessary, I consider, that all insurance companies should go on steadily building up their reserves. It is true that the dollar is not worth much at the moment, less than 1s. 7d. (hear, hear); but nevertheless we must go on piling it up though it is dissipated—I should say perhaps melted—in the process. With these few remarks, I beg to second the adoption of the report and accounts.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and adopted unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. SAUNDERS, seconded by Mr. TAYLOR, Messrs. Goetz and Ormlston had their appointments as directors confirmed.

Mr. FARLINE proposed that Messrs. Schacht and Ormlston be re-elected directors.

Captain ANDERSON seconded, and the resolution was unanimously agreed to.

T. Arnold and H. W. Jeffries were re-appointed auditors, on the motion of Mr. A. J. RAY, seconded by Captain GORDARD.

This was all the business. Dividend warrants will be ready this morning at ten o'clock.

LATE TELEGRAMS.

NEWS VIA SHANGHAI.

KRUGER'S MEMOIR—WRONG ON MAJUBA.

Sir Evelyn Wood, who had part in the Transvaal settlement in 1881, contradicts a statement in Mr. Kruger's memoirs in which he gives an account of the Majuba negotiations, declaring the version now issued to be wholly misleading.

THE KAISER LORD ROSEBERRY'S GUEST.

London, 19th November. Emperor William will be the guest of Lord Rosebery at luncheon to-morrow.

MEXICO AND FOREIGN RAILWAY PROJECTS.

London, 19th November. English, American and German projects in Mexican railways in connection with a bi-continental line have been checked, according to the Chronicle, by the purchases of lines by the Mexican Government designed to exclude outside capital from controlling power in railways there. Advice at hand indicates that political considerations are not without such force as a determination to prevent combinations of capital detrimental to Mexican interests. Although the projects to which foreign capital is pledged appear now to involve antagonisms, the Government foresees that they will become harmonious and non-competitive and may constitute a drawback to Mexican commerce and industry, now in course of rapid development.

AGRIANIAN AND LABOUR TROUBLES IN PORTUGAL.

London, 20th November. Serious trouble is reported from Portugal, where grievances have been declared by both agricultural and industrial labour in the northern districts. The peasant complains of oppression by the landlord class, who have advanced rents in a season of poor crop returns, and there is open discontent among the mill operatives whose wages have been cut or time reduced on account of restricted credits for the mills. Troops have been sent into the districts to repress disorder threatened by a general strike among operatives which would encourage peasant outbreak.

BULGARIA YIELDS TO PORT'S DEMANDS.

London, 20th November. Bulgaria has responded to the demands of the Porte, promising that the Bulgarian frontier shall hereafter be closed against marching bands.—Shanghai Times.

INDIA AND THE AMERICAN INVASION.

Already there are signs, very distinct, if at present small, that the Americans have commenced their invasion of the commerce of this country in earnest, says the Times of India. To every department of commerce America is contributing her quota, and the local business exhibits unmistakable signs that her intention is not merely a casual experiment. She is not merely feeling her way, but has already laid the foundation of a thriving and prosperous business. American agents are fully alive to the possibilities of the country, and as the Indian Textile Journal points out in its last issue, the probability that American capitalists will look to India as a future field for industrial speculation is not far remote. Even now, Mr. Pierson Morgan, the American agent in Bombay, is busy in the boundless possibilities of India as an iron producing country. Were he to succeed, there is no reason why the influence thus exerted upon the country need be deleterious; but there is a further chance that American dollars may also be expended on the cotton industry, and if such a contingency arises the result would be by no means gratifying or beneficial. The commerce of Bombay is regarded by the Chinese market would then be even less secure than it has been during the last times through which Bombay has just passed. But whatever else may be said of American competition, it is always fair and always legitimate. It does not result in a market flooded with goods of the cheap and nasty order; it does not arise out of methods risky and speculative so far as manufacturers themselves are concerned. American success is due to pluck, enterprise, and inventiveness, helped by skill in manufacture and work in her productions. There was a time when the native dealer stood at the advantage of American prices simply because he preferred to stand by the merits of the British-made article, a quite apart from the question of cost. That day has gone by. The American has within a few years secured five per cent. of Indian trade and the Indian dealer, so far as the article of manufacture is concerned, is not for the fact that the British manufacturer is so helped by official influence, the slump in the direction of America would be rapid. It is not to be expected that when the articles are placed side by side, both equally good but one cheaper than the other, that the purchaser will not choose that which costs him less money. In South Africa, America is carrying all before her. The agriculturists of that country, faced with a situation akin to that in India as regards the steel trade, cannot look to waste money, and the consequence is that America gets the orders. Improvement in system at home will simply mean Americanising. Surely, as the Textile Journal hints, British manufacturers are too stupid to lose trade and lose money more for the sake of tradition and prejudice.

One of the Anglo-Indian newspapers published the other day an obituary notice of a man still living. The editor humbled himself, on hearing of his mistake, but in so pretty a fashion that he is now quite a hero. This he had done it. We are truly glad to learn that our dear old friend still lives, though it will be a disappointment to many of his friends in heaven that he has not yet been permitted to join them there. The "dead man" rose, to the occasion.

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Hongkong, 15th November, 1902.

[208]

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Steamers of the Marty and the Jelson lines make frequent sailings between Hongkong and Haiphong.

P. THOMÉ, Commissaire-Général de l'Exposition de Hanoi.

Hongkong, 17th November, 1902.

[1800]

AN AMERICAN'S VIEW OF THE BOER GENERALS.

We take the following from a letter addressed to the London Times:—

The Boer Generals will find in my country great admiration for the gallant fight they made, and a good deal of special sympathy among imperfectly naturalised Americans because that fight was conducted against Great Britain. The references in the writings of their friends to the analogy between the Boers and the people of the 13 American colonies who established their independence and founded the United States, and other references to the similar character of the South African war and our rebellion of 1861 are, however, erroneous, and may even be resented.

In the first place, however ungracious it may seem to say so, the Boer Generals must remember that the American Revolution was successful and their war was not; and when it comes to the comparison of individuals no American can see the least resemblance between Dr. Leyds and Dr. Franklin, who occupied in 1776 a position similar to that of Dr. Leyds in 1900. As for the likeness between Mr. Kruger and Washington, Americans cannot imagine, much less express, what would have been thought of George Washington if, in the darkest hours of the Revolution after the winter at Valley Forge, he and Robert Morris had got together all the cash they could realise and had then "exiled" themselves to Versailles and lived there in the best prevailing style.

In the second place, so far as the position of the Boer Generals resembles that of the Southern Confederacy after the collapse of the rebellion, I do not think any American can conceive of Lee, Johnston, Jackson, Beauregard, or Wade Hampton coming to Europe in 1865 to ask for subscriptions and dwelling ceaselessly on the havoc and misery wrought among their people by the war they had themselves been fighting on Fort Sumter. There were at that time more ardent admirers of the Southern cause in England than the Boers have ever had in the Continent, and they were among your wealthiest classes. Neither Lee, Johnston, nor any other rebel general ever thought of coming here to ask for help; still less would their friends have thought of trying to bolster up the "lost cause" by seeking interviews with foreign kings. Every American is now proud of those men, and of the way they went to work after they had, like the Boers, elected to surrender instead of to die. They could not have been ennobled, as they are, in the hearts of all that is country, men if they had ever been heard whining about the world for ails.

"War is hell"; it cannot be conducted, as some writers in Boston, Mass., and Manchester, England, suppose, as if it were a school feast. It is difficult, after it is over, to get at the facts of what occurred, but the Boer Generals' speeches and appeals impose too great a tax on our credulity.

The war has been going on for six months, if I remember rightly, before there was a single British soldier on the enemy's soil, yet, if I understand them, the Boer Generals wish us to believe that the inevitable savagery of war was not manifested until after that first six months had expired. Again, General Dalaray is quoted as having said that the Boer losses, during the war, were \$75,000,000, and that they had been more than made up by the South Africans, that sum rather than to have done the pitiful three millions in their faces. If that sum were lost by the Boers, it would mean that every one of the 8,000 Boers had had nearly \$1,000 to lose, in addition to their town properties, which are mostly intact, and the land which, at least, has not been destroyed. Why should we be asked to swallow such statements? Finally, is it not possible to give us some

exact account of the Boers' funds, which are repeatedly said to have been brought to Europe? I saw, for instance, the other day in a Liverpool paper that \$3,000 of the Orphan Masters' Fund of the Transvaal had been invested in accordance with the law, but that \$190,000 had been expropriated by the Boer Government. Where are these funds, and what do they amount to? Are they to be accounted for, or can the fact of their seizure be denied?

A man must be a good loser. One of the supreme tests of a man is the way to use our slang phrase, in which, after a defeat in any kind of game, he "stands up" and takes his medicine. Naturally, the Boers are sore, but they do not seem to be taking their medicine in manly fashion. Their speeches and appeals are not worthy of the sort of men we thought they were. To make an effective appeal to us, they must remember that they began their war, that they laid down their arms, and that they have been treated with a generosity without precedent; and when they ask us for money they ought to tell us how much they have already got, and what they intend to do with what we give them, and above all, how they propose to build up their country, and they will not increase their chances of getting those funds by telling us tall stories.

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HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

NOTICE.

AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of
the Members of the above Club will be
held at the GRAND STAND, Racecourse
Enclosure, at 5 P.M., on FRIDAY, the 28th
inst.

Business:—To pass the Programme of the
Race Meeting to be held in February next.
By Order.

J. GRANT, Secretary.

Hongkong, 21st November, 1902. [3960]

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Hongkong, 31st October, 1902. [255]

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at the London Office, 131, Fleet Street,
Hongkong, 26th November, 1901. [30]

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THE
SORROWS OF A SULTAN'S
SUBJECTS.

BY

A. J. DAWSON

(Author of "Bismillah," &c.).

It is a wonderful city, is Tangier, the gleam-
ing and white-walled; in one sense less won-
derful than any other in mysterious Morocco,
because less rapidly Moorish. In another sense
the most wonderful, because sufficiently Moor-
ish, which is to say quite barbarous, whilst
almost within gun-shot, of Europe, and of a
British fortress.

Do you remember the sort of life you read
about in your childhood as being the life of the
world's infancy, the period of Jacob's dream,
of Joseph's coat of many colours, of Abraham
and his flocks and herds? That life precisely,
unchanged in any smallest particular is being
lived from day to day throughout Morocco,
within sight of twentieth century Europe. You
remember the Bible story of the sacrifice of
Abraham's sheep, the narrowly escaped sacrifice
of his beloved son. The day of that miracle is
annually commemorated throughout Morocco,
and every respectable household sacrifices his
sheep, in circumstances and surroundings which
are absolutely those of the Old Testament.

In one direction it is possible that the sub-
jects of Mulai Abd el Aziz IV. of Morocco have
gone beyond any point reached by European
savants; they know more of tyranny, corrup-
tion and oppression in the administration of
their beautiful land. What we Westerners call
corruption is the very fibre of every root
and branch of the absolute despotism which
rules Morocco. From his youthful Shareefian
Majesty under the Royal Parasol to the meanest
city-gate beggar in all Sunset Land, every man
buys place, rank, honour, and (according to
European notions) clients or even bargains.

At this moment there lives a Moor named
Hadj Abd el Karem, known intimately to the
present writer, whose father was a boughten
slave, and who, himself, is now a pedlar of
water in the market-place. Hadj el Karem has
once held one of the highest official positions in
the land, and twice he has been the honoured,
feared, and wealthy Governor of a large pro-
vince. Once he has been banished within an
inch of his life for a single night's indiscretion;
twice he has languished for a period of several
years in dark and fustidied country dungeons, and
twice he has been submitted to torture in order
that a confession might be wrung from him of
the whereabouts of his secret treasure; on the
first occasion his right eye was destroyed, by
the lid being pierced with a fish-hook sus-
pended from a beam at such a height that the
unfortunate man had to stand upon his toes to
avoid the dragging out of the eye-lid, and on
the second occasion he lost his right hand by
having it slit open and balled up with sand in a
strip of bullock's hide.

Understand, this man has never been charged
with any offence against the laws of the land;
he has never been tried in any court; and even
as he has been ruined by those given over whom
he has given power. And in Morocco this
man's career is not considered at all remarkable.

THE WAY OF THE ASSASSIN.
In this one eminently independent strip of the
Dark Continent, all official positions of every
sort and rank are obtained quite openly by pur-
chase. To purchase the governorship of a given
province, means to acquire the right of extor-
ting from the people of that province every far-
thing that can be ground out of them, by fair
means, by force, or by such foul methods as tur-
ture and starvation. Out of this a certain as-
sassin must be sent to his Shareefian
Majesty, Lord of all the Faithful, maker and
breaker of all officials. In the same way, to be
a guard or policeman (the word in use is as-
sassin, from which, naturally, we derive our
assassin) implies, not the holding of a post bring-
ing in a salary of so much a month, but merely
that one is a licensed extortioner and roger,
within the limits of petty larceny. As, for ex-
ample, the Bashas of a town send two of his
assassins to arrest a certain citizen, who is sus-
pected of the crime of possessing secreted sar-
fines. These assassins may not attempt to take
his treasure from the citizen for themselves.
That is meat for their master. But usage says
they may and will extort what they can from
the man—a handful of silver, say—with threats
of rough treatment or promises of favour. That
is their business, and its rewards are understood
to be their sole source of income.

Habeas Corpus is, of course, unknown in Al
Maghreb. A judge's dictum usually runs in this
wise:—“Take him to the prison,” or “Let him
be beaten.” In the latter case the matter is
put in hand forthwith, while the judge takes
snuff, and turns upon his cushions, a slightly
bored spectator, his nod sufficient to decide
whether the culprit should be merely bruised,
maimed, half killed, or actually done to death.
A deliberate sentence, in which a period of
months or years of imprisonment is named is
never pronounced. Such a method would never
answer, for the duration of any prisoner's con-
finement depends entirely upon the length of
time taken by his friends in securing together a
bribe which shall satisfy the responsible official.
And this, whether the crime be the most dan-
gerous kind of murder, or the merest bagatelle,
or nothing at all beyond the misfortune of being
judged a prosperous man with a nest-egg worth
plundering.

While in prison—and you will be in it mind
that the best and the worst of men are equally
unable to avoid the risk of imprisonment at any
time—a man is given nothing whatever by the
authorities if there is a friend within reach who
can be induced to supply as much as a piece of
bread per day. If, on the other hand, a prisoner
should prove to be absolutely friendless (a state
of things fortunately very rare among all primi-
tive peoples) the authorities allow him one ban-
out, the shape and size of an English bath tub
each day. And that is all. For water, Moorish

prisoners depend upon the door-keeper of their
prison, who usually supplies two skins full per
day paid for out of money taken from in-com-
ing and out-going prisoners. The door-keeper,
being an official, is supplied, and pays, in pre-
sents to the official next in rank above him, for
the privilege of making just as much as he is
able by extortion. He appoints one prisoner as
Kaid or captain of the whole number confined.
This again is a licence to rob and oppress, in re-
turn for which the prisoner Kaid pays daily tri-
bute to the door-keeper. He keeps order among
his fellows, distributes water, makes out corporal
punishment, and extorts tribute in money, for d.
tobacco, and the like from every prisoner pos-
sessed of friends to bring him these things. The
prison itself is a noxious and fustidied dungeon
of reeking stone-work, open to public inspection
through a loop-hole at which the door-keeper
sits at the receipt of bribes. The prisoners, sick
and whole, mad and sane, melancholy and joy-
ful, are herded together like swine in one dim
and filthy apartment—a terrible gathering.

They may smoke when they have anything
to smoke. They may talk, sing, play, or
sleep, when and how they choose. They are
many of them philosophers and all of them
fatalists, and all Moors are generous. Hence
even friendless prisoners take a long while to
die. Capital punishment is practically un-
known; but a man takes his chance of death
in many forms; under torture, the question,
starvation and the like. In cases of rebellion
the government pays an immense price for a
half a dozen prisoners for the heads of rebels,
the which are sent and when pickled to adorn
the gates of the capital cities have been so
used this year, and will be so used next year, if
the Moorish government survives so long.

A BAD PLACE TO BE POOR IN—NOT WORSE
TO BE RICH IN.

Taking it by and large, Moorish life is re-
markably free from crime, as crime figures in
the Newgate calendar. One might almost add
that upon the whole the Moors are an innocent
and law-abiding people. Particularly when
one remembers that they have no laws—as an
Irishman might put it. But the Moorish
administration is one of the most corrupt on
earth, and in no other country is money, or the
desire of it, so emphatically the root of all evil
as it is in this realm of Mohammed's son,
Abd el Aziz IV.

A pretty bad place to be poor in! you
might exclaim when you heard of a man and
wife, a poor couple, with a little to market, very
heavily laden, and drooping three days to the
ruining of about fivepence. True, but, in a
sense, it is a worse country to be rich in. A
man who is notoriously and unmistakably poor,
and without money or relatives, is tolerably secure
from the risks of imprisonment or persecution,
unless he commits crime or offends some power-
ful person. A warm man, as we say, is never
safe, no matter how softly spoken, or how
generous the matter of judiciously distributed
cash money.

The Bashas of a Moorish town, or the Kaid of
a district are veritable autocrats. Their lieut-
enants (Khaleefah) are minor autocrats. Both
in public judgment every day. All serious
cases involve serious, that is large, bribes. Such
cases are heard by the Bashas. All petty cases,
domestic quarrels, bawling, and the like, in-
volve small bribes of chickens, tea, eggs, butter,
sugar, and such like. Such cases come be-
fore the Khaleefah. Purely civil cases, or those
involving references to Kuranic injunctions, go
before the Kadi, a dignified person who can
read and write his name, and must be bribed
through his clerk. I have seen three leaves of
sugar and a packet of candles change the whole
complexion of a case involving many months of
imprisonment and starvation. I have seen
plaintiff and defendant both honest and sound-
ly befuddled, and that one dismissed with
sugar and candles, and the other with a sack
of wheat. I have seen a case involving the
division of a piece of land, and the plaintiff
when I learned that the foolish fellow had
come to court bearing no more valuable gifts
than a pound of butter and two candles.

Let me instance a case as briefly as may be
from recent court proceedings in Al Kasr el
Kebir. Mahomet, a Tangier Moor, appeared
in the Khaleefah and complained that Cassim
Bibi had man-handled him in the open market.
Mahomet desired that Cassim might be beaten
in the Kasbah for this. At the same time he
placed three packets of candles and two dollars,
a very respectable gift, on a mat beside the
Khaleefah. His Worship granted assent, and
sent two soldiers for Cassim. Mahomet waited
to watch events. Presently Cassim appeared
between the two soldiers, a splendid specimen
of a mountain man, with wild eyes, which he
kept down-cast. And that was the loss of him,
for, even in the complainant's presence, his eyes
might have betrayed the Khaleefah's promise
of a bribe, this being quite a customary method.
However, Cassim ostentatiously eyed the sol-
diers, then that he had a hardened rogue to
deal with the Khaleefah sighed (he naturally
prefers a bribe from both sides) and without a
question of any sort, said to Cassim:—

“So, dog, you will fall upon good Muslims
here in Al Kasr, and beat them, huh?” Then
to the soldiers:—“Take him to prison and scourge
him well—two hundred strokes. Leave him
there.” (This quotation is unaltered and as
literal as I can make it.) And now we had as
yet no proud-to-speak, I rode after him toward
the prison, leaving my servant in the court. Just
as we reached the prison's outer courtyard, a
soldier overtook us, breathless, and followed
closely by my Moor. We were ordered back to
court. Cassim's uncle, so my servant explained
to me, was a man of substance. He had arrived
at the Court five minutes after Cassim's
departure thence for prison. He had spoken
of the Khaleefah, and, contented out ten dollars
into his worship's hand. On my return I en-
tered the Court at Cassim's heels. This is what
passed.

The Khaleefah, good-humouredly:—“How
is this, Bibi (Cassim)? How comes it you did
not tell me that you had not really beaten Ma-
homet?” Cassim, the Bibi, sulkily:—“Lord,
why should I talk of such cattle? The beat-
ing that gave him life.” “Oh, oh! Speak, speak!”
This my court is not the market-place. I can-
not have so much noise here. Go away, all of
you!” Complaint Mahomet stepped for-
ward:—“But, Lord!” “Outside! Away with
you, I say—or would you eat stick, Mahomet!”
roared the Khaleefah.

An ill-used-rable affair truly, though it
put twelve or fourteen dollars into the Khaleefah's
pocket. But the illustration of ordinary
Moorish methods in the administration of jus-
tice, as well in great matters as in small. And
what, what is the attitude of Moorish
selves, the sufferers, in these matters? Would
they willingly exchange this sort of rule for what
we of the West consider a just and proper ad-
ministration? It is a hard question to an-
swer. Freedom from oppression is a matter
desirable to all men. But regard to taxation, an
efficient police service, and submission to the
intricate code of rules, big and little, which is at
the root of our civilisation, these things, at the
price which has to be paid for justice of ad-
ministration as we understand it, and it is
greatly to be doubted whether Moors would ever
willingly pay that price. Meaning, the feel-
ing with which they regard a fellow-country-
man who shows himself well disposed towards
Christians and Christians, or European innova-
tions of any sort, is well exemplified by the fol-

lowing little story, a perfectly true one of an
event which marked my last year's stay in Tan-
gier; Tangier, the infidel-infidel, where Moors
are more accustomed to the ways of Europeans,
and more inclined toward them, than in any
other part of the empire.

THE STRANGE STORY OF SID TAHER'S DEATH.
A new Bashas was sent to Tangier, Sid Taher
Tazzi, an enlightened man as modern Moors go,
and one related to a Moorish family living in
Liverpool. He had the unenviable reputation
among Moors of being well-disposed toward
Christians. A fortnight after his arrival in
Tangier, Sid Taher died, from causes unex-
plained, and was buried. Inquiries were made,
and post-mortem examinations conducted in
Morocco, where they would be deemed inad-
missible and sacrilegious acts. I enquired first
of one and then of half a dozen other Moors, as to
the real cause of the new Bashas's death. This
is what I was told.

The original owner of the Bashas's palace in
Tangier was a Muslim, a Muslim, a Muslim, a Muslim,
to the finger-ends, and one to whom intercourse
of any sort with an unbeliever, a Nazarene, had
seemed the basest sort of blasphemy. He was the
creator of that famous phrase:—“The knife for
the Hudi (Jew); the hook for the N'arani
(Christian).” The hook was just a hook—a
great fish-hook—which was kept conveniently
fixed over city gateways, in order that a be-
liever, when so minded, might take a Christian
to the top of the wall, and drop him upon the
hook, there to hang and squirm, impaled, till
death did him release. I recently enquired of
one of those who a few years ago, though, to be sure,
the good old days of their constant usage (as a
Moor might say) are no more.

Now this first owner of the palace carried his
hatred of the infidel with him when he was
washed into paradise. Instead of lying idly
feasting in his esca! pavilion there, he has
visited earth every night since his death, and
glanced round his old palace in Tangier to see
how things were going.

The most of Tangier's Bashas have been men
whom even the inventor of the hook phrase could
not have accused of friendliness with the un-
believer, or of any tendency to take up with
Western civilisation. Then came Sid Taher
Tazzi, with his enlightenment, and his opening
up of relations with the foreign ministers; for
all the world as though he were a Turk, or even
a N'arani. His deceased predecessor, in Para-
dise, endured the thing for a few days. Then,
at midnight, he descended upon sleeping Tan-
gier, stalked gloomily past heavy-armed guards,
and entered his old palace. Straight to the
bedside of his unworthy successor the old Mus-
lim strode, took him by the throat, shook the
appalled wretch, and in tones of fearful signifi-
cance told him to get up from out that place.

Then the victor from paradise disappeared,
leaving poor Sid Taher Tazzi in an icy sweat of
terror. The icy sweat continued, and within
thirty-six hours the new Bashas passed away,
praying despairingly. The story may be what
you choose. The death, physically unaccounted
for, is an indisputable fact. I saw the bold
buried.

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P. P. DANENBERG, Manager.
Hongkong, 21st October, 1902. [2486]

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Hongkong, 14th February, 1901. [568]

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Hongkong, 17th October, 1901. [2774]

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Extra Dry (Green Seal).

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[2978]

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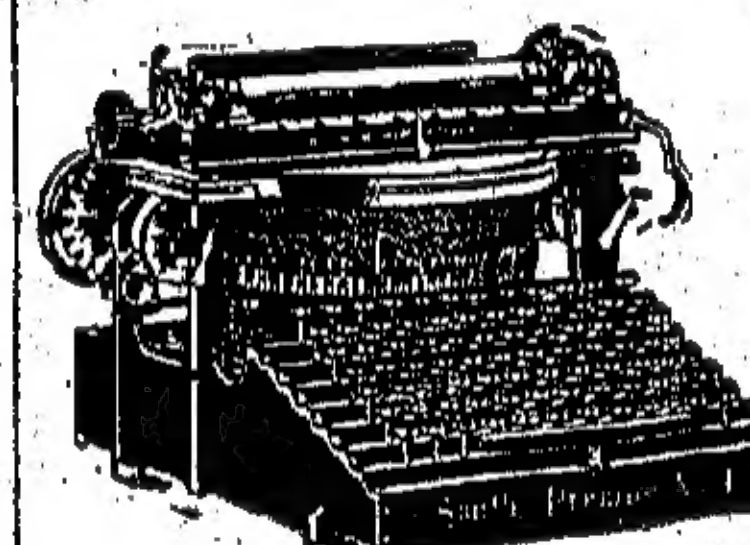
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[2417]

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POST OFFICE NOTICES.

The *Bayern*, with the German Mail of the 26th ult., left Singapore on Saturday, the 22nd inst. at 7 a.m., and may be expected here to-morrow.

The *América*, with the American Mail of the 26th ult., left Yokohama on Thursday, the 26th inst., at daylight, and may be expected here on or about Friday, the 28th inst.

The *Paquin*, with the French Mail of the 31st ult., left Singapore on Monday, the 24th inst., at 5 a.m., and may be expected here on or about Monday, the 1st prox. This Packet brings replies to letters despatched from Hongkong on the 27th September.

The *Korea*, with the American Mail of the 8th inst., left Yokohama to-day, the 26th inst., at daylight, and may be expected here on or about Thursday, the 4th prox.

MAILS WILL CLOSE.

FOR	PER	DATE
Canton, Hongkong, Shanghai, Peking, and Haiphong.	Wednesday, 26th, 7.30 A.M.	
Manila, Singapore, Penang, and Calcutta.	Wednesday, 26th, 9.00 A.M.	
Manila, Singapore, Penang, and Calcutta.	Wednesday, 26th, 10.00 A.M.	
Manila, Singapore, Penang, and Calcutta.	Wednesday, 26th, 10.00 A.M.	
Manila, Singapore, Penang, and Calcutta.	Wednesday, 26th, 10.00 A.M.	

Europe, &c., India via Tientsin.
(Last Letters 11.10 to 11.30 A.M. Extra postage 10 cents)

Manila, Singapore, Penang, and Calcutta.	Wednesday, 26th, 1.15 P.M.
Manila, Singapore, Penang, and Calcutta.	Wednesday, 26th, 3.00 P.M.
Manila, Singapore, Penang, and Calcutta.	Wednesday, 26th, 4.00 P.M.
Manila, Singapore, Penang, and Calcutta.	Wednesday, 26th, 4.00 P.M.
Manila, Singapore, Penang, and Calcutta.	Wednesday, 26th, 5.00 P.M.
Manila, Singapore, Penang, and Calcutta.	Thursday, 27th, 1.00 P.M.
Manila, Singapore, Penang, and Calcutta.	Thursday, 27th, 3.00 P.M.

MANILA, NAGASAKI, KOKU, YOKOHAMA, HONOLULU AND SAN FRANCISCO.
(Supplementary mail on board up to the time limit for departure of the mail. Extra postage 10 cents)

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Singapore, Penang and Colombo.
Singapore, Penang and Colombo.

TO-DAY.

Sale of Carols, Sales Rooms, Mr. Geo. P. Lamont, 2.30 p.m.

Regular Meeting of Victoria Free Press, Freemasons Hall, 5 for 5.30 p.m.

James Waddell Co. Theatre Royal, 9 p.m.

Wagon Circus, on the Recreation, opposite the Central Market, 4 and 9 p.m.

TO-MORROW.

Extraordinary General Meeting of the Pao-tung Mining Co. Ltd. noon.

Sale Household Furniture, No. 16, Leighton Hill Road, Mr. Geo. P. Lamont, 2.30 p.m.

COMMERCIAL.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

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JOINT STOCK SHARES.

Hongkong, 26th November.

COMPANY	PAID UP	QUOTATIONS.
Bank of China	125	163 1/2
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VISITORS AT HOTELS.

Hongkong, 26th November.

Mr. W. S. Bailey	Mr. E. A. Kitch
Mr. W. W. Barre	Mr. A. R. Keop
Mr. J. T. Bell	Mr. T. Knap
Mr. and Mrs. Bissel	Mr. B. D. Khamond
Mr. J. Black	Mr. J. Knap

Mr. and Mrs. Black	Mr. E. S. Little
Mr. E. A. Bonner	Mr. W. G. McArthur
Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Borthwick	Mr. E. E. McCulloch
Mr. F. C. Bowers	Mr. E. J. Macgowan
Mr. F. H. Bowers	Mr. G. M. McKie

Mr. J. W. Brown	Mr. J. McMillan
Mr. J. S. Brown	Mr. L. Martinez
Mr. G. W. Brown	Mr. and Mrs. Meares
Mr. and Mrs. Carby	Mr. and Mrs. Milton
Mr. Carby	Mr. A. Mohr

Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Chatter	Mr. A. Nulra
Mr. D. Clark	Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Murphy
Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Clark	Mr. C. North, R.N.
Mr. D. F. Clark	Mr. H. O. O'Connell
Mr. W. J. Clark	Mr. S. O'Connell

Mr. G. E. Cole	Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Parker
Mr. J. S. Colson	Mr. W. H. Potts
Mr. J. S. Colson	Mr. S. Potts (2)
Mr. C. DeLano	Mr. L. Rankin
Mr. F. H. Deryshire	Mr. Rankin

Mr. F. W. Edwards	Mr. K. A. Schander
Mr. G. E. Fisher	Mr. and Mrs. Schlatter
Mr. H. G. Fisher	Mr. and Mrs. Schlatter
Mr. L. N. Goss	Mr. O. Schow
Mr. C. G. Goss	Mr. M. S. S. S.

Mr. J. Gordon	Mr. and Mrs. S. S. S.
Mr. J. Gordon	Mr. O. T. T.
Mr. J. Gordon	Mr. L. J. Thomas
Mr. J. Gordon	Mr. and Mrs. Townsend
Mr. J. Gordon	Mr. and Mrs. Wagon

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Mr. J. Gordon	Mr. W. J. Wagon
Mr. J. Gordon	Mr. W. J. Wagon
Mr. J. Gordon	Mr. W. J. Wagon

Mr. H. D. Carter	Mrs. J. A. Redfern
Mr. J. Cronin	Mr. A. Reid
Mrs. Houghton	Mr. Sebus
Mr. Carl Keing	Mr. M. Stapelfeldt
Mr. and Mrs. Kappeler	Mr. J. E. Symington
and two children	

COLD STORAGE